S.No.	*State/U.Ts.*	*Production ('000 tonnes)*
11.	Sikkim	6.4
12.	Tamil Nadu	321.3
13.	Uttar Pradesh	194.2
14.	West Bengal	10.9
15.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3.6
16.	Pondicherry	1.2
	All India	2330.0

Supply of Agricultural Inputs

3560. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural inputs made available to the marginal and small farmers at subsidised rates such as quality seeds and fertilisers do not reach the cultivators in time;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the arrangements in consultation with the State governments concerned in order to streamline the system and procedure for supply of such inputs to the block level;

(c) whether the Government have also examined the system of financing the purchase of such inputs by the cultivators through banks and cooperative; and

(d) if so, the changes proposed to be introduced in the system of supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Subsidised quality seeds under various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored on-going production oriented programme are being supplied to farmers well in time. Similarly, subsidised fertilisers are also being provided to the small and marginal farmers on time.

(b) Yes Sir. Government have been reviewing the arrangements in consultation with State Governments by organising perodical Zonal conferences to streamline the system and procedure for supply of inputs well in time to the farmers.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir. the scales of finance for crops loans fixed for regional rural Banks (RRBs)/Cooperative Banks/Societies etc. comprise of two components - cash and kind. Component of the crop loan takes into account the inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides, seeds etc. required by the cultivators. the 'kind' component is disbursed by PACs themselves, where PACs are engaged in stocking and distribution of such inputs. In other cases, the inputs are lifted by borrowers from Marketing Societies/Fertiliser dealers against authorisations issued by PACs.

Banks have been advised to ensure timely and adequate flow of credit to farmers

for agricultural production. Reserve Bank of India has issued detailed guidelines to commercial banks for simplifying and liberalising lending procedures.

A number of steps have been taken with a view to increase flow of credit to farmers particularly small and marginal farmers. The important ones are;

1. Disoosal of loan applications upto Rs. 25,000/- within fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks.

2. Delegation of appropriate sanctioning powers to the rural Branch Managers so that majority of loan applications are sanctioned at Branch level itself.

3. No collateral security should be taken by way of mortgage/charge of land or third party guarantee on crop loans upto Rs.10,000/- and term loans upto Rs. 10,000/- where moveable assets are created.

4. No margin is required for agricultural loans upto Rs,10,000/- for both short-term, medium/long term loans.

5. The interest on crop loans upto Rs. 7,500/- is kept low at 11.5% p.a.

6. Term loans upto Rs. 2 lakhs are provided at concessional rate.

7. In the case of crop loans availed of by small and marginal farmers, the interest debited is not to exceed the principal amount.

8. In the case of crop failure, amount due should be rescheduled over a period of 3 to 5 years and fresh loans should be given to farmers.

9. There should be no compounding of interest on current dues in agriculture sector.

10. Banks have been advised that for both short term and long term loans, the repayment sechuled should concide with the time when the cultivator has sold his produce and in funds.

Development of Hindustan Zinc Limited

3562. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the development of the Hindustan Zinc Limited in Visakhapatnam during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): Hindustan zinc Limited operates a smelter with an annual capacity of 22,000 tonnes of Lead and 30,000 tonnes of zinc at Visakhapatnam. Plans for increasing metal recovery and provide better environmental protection measures will be implemented during 1992-93.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Bottling Plants

3563. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG bottling plants set up in various States during the last three years;

(b) the number of such plants set up in Rajasthan;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal